

ON THE BIRDS COLLECTED ON SUDEST ISLAND IN
THE LOUISIADE ARCHIPELAGO BY ALBERT S. MEEK.

By ERNST HARTERT.

MR. ALBERT S. MEEK, whose name is well known to the readers of this journal, has very successfully collected on various islands of the Louisiade Archipelago, and I shall give lists of the birds of the various islands in succession, beginning with those from Sudest Island, or Tagula, which is the largest of the group, being forty miles long and averaging about eight miles in breadth. It ascends in the centre to 2689 feet, and is well wooded and inhabited. The natives have a very good reputation, and are said to be less warlike than those of many other islands of the group. The island was visited by John Macgillivray, of H.M.S. *Rattlesnake*, as long ago as 1849, and a few specimens have been collected there by Sir William Macgregor's official parties and Mr. Basil H. Thomson during short inspection tours; but no extensive collections have ever been made on Tagula before Meek's visit. He stayed on the island practically the whole of the month of April 1889, and made large and fine collections. It will be seen from the following list that the number of species collected is small (only forty-two), and it is, I think, evident that there must be more land-birds on the island; in fact I am inclined to believe that nearly all those found on the smaller Rossel Island should occur, or be replaced by closely allied forms, while it is not to be wondered at that Sudest Island should have forms which are not found on any of the other islands. Of birds not sent by Mr. Meek, Mr. De Vis mentions as occurring on Sudest Island the following:—*Eopsaltria sudestensis* De Vis. Unknown to me. See note under No. 7.—*Chlamydodera cerviniventris* Gould.—*Momarcha melanopterus* Gray.—Mr. De Vis' *Colluricincla discolor* is, I think, the same as my *Pachycephala fortis*. Canon Tristram mentions no bird which has not been collected by Mr. Meek.

Besides the *Lorius hypocoerchous* (No. 31), I know of no birds being described from Sudest Island except by Mr. De Vis in the Appendices to the Official Reports on British New Guinea, and by Canon Tristram in the *Ibis* for 1889.

From Meek's collection there can be little doubt that we are now on the whole well acquainted with the resident species of Sudest Island. The number of "new species" and local forms is very great; but many of them occur also on other islands of the Louisiade Archipelago, as will be shown in a following article.

1. *Manucodia atra* (Less.).

It is somewhat surprising to find on Sudest Island (and apparently on none of the other islands of the Louisiade group) the common *Manucodia atra* from New Guinea. Mr. W. Rothschild and I have carefully compared the Sudest birds with many specimens from New Guinea, and we could find no differences. The specimens sent by Meek are in perfect condition, the head and neck greenish, rest of upper parts rather purplish. "The iris is bright red; bill and feet black." Wing 195—205 mm. The smaller ones are not all marked *females*, but there is perhaps an error in the sexes of two specimens.

2. *Corvus orru* Bp.

Two *males* and one *female*. The iris is a "light watery blue, with a whiter outer ring."

3. *Chibia carbonaria dejecta* subsp. nov.

Differs from *Chibia carbonaria carbonaria* in being constantly smaller,—such small specimens of *C. c. carbonaria* hardly ever occurring, except now and then in the southern parts of New Guinea and Arn, where a smaller race seems to live,—back less velvety black, more glossy and with shining spangles. Dimensions of the four *males* sent: wing 142—145, tail to tip of outer rectrices 130—132, culmen from base 32—33 mm. "Iris bright red; feet and bill black."

C. assimilis and *laemosticta* are no doubt also subspecies of *C. carbonaria*.

4. *Calornis metallica* (Temm.).

These birds were frequent, and in March they were in most beautiful plumage. "Iris bright red; feet and bill black." The *female* does not differ from the *male*. The young, striped, greyish brown birds have the iris "naples yellow."

5. *Cracticus louisianensis* Tristr.

Cracticus louisianensis, Tristram in *Ibis*, 1889, p. 155.

Strepera rosa-alba, De Vis in Report on British New Guinea 1889, Birds, p. 3. (Cf. also Rothschild in *Bull. B. O. Club*, Vol. VIII, p. 7.)

Two *males* and one *female*. The latter, which is, judging from some brownish edges to the feathers of the back, immature, differs from the adult *male* in having the wing about 2 cm. shorter, the white patches near the tips of the outer rectrices not round, but almost triangular, covering a tiny tip of the outer and the entire tip of the inner web for 30 mm. in the outermost rectrix. The white reaches farther upwards in the middle of the abdomen, the upper wing-coverts have less white. Iris of all three specimens brown. Feet light bluish slate-colour. Bill slaty blue, with black tip.

This bird is a *Cracticus* and not a *Strepera*.

6. *Pachycephala fortis* Gadow (? subsp.).

There is quite a series from Sudest Island. They differ mostly from *P. fortis* from Fergusson and Goodenough Islands in the grey crown being less defined, the stripes on the throat being more developed, the throat and middle of abdomen being more whitish, the breast-band less defined and less greyish. None of these characters, however, is constant enough to justify specific separation. The wing is often as long as in the form which I called *P. fortis trobriandi*. The differences between *P. fortis* from Fergusson and *trobriandi* seem doubtful. The wings of the specimens from Sudest Island measure as follows: adult *males* 100—101 mm., adult *females* 92—94 mm.

I think that *Colluricincla discolor* De Vis, from Sudest Island, described in the Report on New Guinea 1889, Birds, p. 3, refers to this species. The description agrees generally very well with that of *Pachycephala fortis*, although the measurements of wing and tail are rather large.

7. *Pachycephala alberti* Hartert.

P. alberti in *Bull. B. O. Club*, Vol. VIII, p. ix (October 1898). The original description in the Bulletin is as follows:—

“Closely allied to *P. griseiceps* G. R. Gray, but with a longer and more powerful bill; throat and breast with more distinct dark shaft-lines in the adult birds, tail with very distinct dark cross-bars in certain lights, wings and tail longer. Wing 87—89 mm., tail 67—68.”

To this description should be added:—The abdomen and under tail-coverts are very much paler than in *P. griseiceps*: the tail, which is very greenish from below in *P. griseiceps*, is olive-grey without any distinct shade of green in *P. alberti*, when viewed from below. Immature birds have rufous edges to the remiges and the bill light brown. The female has the wing 2 or 3 mm. shorter, but does not differ otherwise from the male. Culmen from base 18—20 mm. The iris is brown, the feet and bill black, in the adult bird. Mr. Meek found this interesting new species not very rare on Sudest Island. He sent nine skins. I was able to compare these with eighteen skins in the Tring Museum from Kapaur, Takar, Artak, Naiabui, Sorong, and Arn, and found the differences very constant and easily detectable, except that the cross-bars in the tail of *P. alberti* are not always distinct and only to be seen in certain lights.

Compared with eight Jobi skins (W. Doherty coll.), I find that the Jobi form merely differs from *P. griseiceps griseiceps* in the less developed brownish shade across the chest and a generally longer (not shorter) wing. It can therefore only be looked upon as a subspecific form, and should be called *P. griseiceps jobiensis*. A specimen from the island of Gagi, west of Waigiu, seems a perfect giant, with the chest as pale as in *P. g. jobiensis*. It forms probably another unnamed subspecies.

In 1892 Mr. De Vis described in the Report on British New Guinea, Appendix, p. 96, a bird from Sudest Island under the name of “*Eopsaltria sudestensis*.” Some points in the description of Mr. De Vis may induce one to think it may refer to my *Pachycephala alberti*. This, however, cannot be the case. First of all Mr. De Vis is no doubt able to distinguish between *Eopsaltria* and *Pachycephala*, and he would not have called a typical *Pachycephala* an *Eopsaltria*. Then the head, wings, and tail are not uniform dark brown, the crown of the head being dark olive-grey; the tail and remiges deep brown, edged with greenish olive, and not with rufous brown: the back is not rufous brown; there is no rufous brown line over the eyes; the upper chest is not pale rufous brown; the abdomen is pale yellow, not white, and there are the dark shaft-lines which are not mentioned in the description of *E. sudestensis*. The under tail-coverts are not white, stained with brown, but pale yellow. The measurements do not agree, especially those of the bill and tarsus.

There is, on the other hand, no bird in Meek's collection answering to the description of *Eopsaltria sudestensis*.

8. *Graucalus hypoleucus louisianensis* subsp. nov.

The material in the Tring Museum is not sufficient to discuss thoroughly the group of *Graucalus hypoleucus*, but there is, I think, no doubt that the birds from Sudest Island require a subspecific name. Their characters are:—Bill very large, exposed part of culmen 23—24 mm., mandible from end of feathering to tip (gonys) 17—19 mm.; upperside very pale; throat and entire abdomen pure white, only across the chest a very light grey band; wing rather long, 145—148 mm. Iris brown; feet and bill black. In no other form is the beak so large.

Besides this form there seem to be several other subspecies:—(1) The typical form from Northern Australia, the islands of Torres Strait, and South-Eastern New Guinea, with a wide area of pale grey from the breast to the throat, those from New Guinea (*angustifrons* Sharpe) perhaps paler (?). (2) The Solomon Islands birds (Rubiiana, Fauro, Munia), with wings only 130—140 mm. long. (3) The Arn form, with wing as long or longer than *louisianensis*, but bill smaller. More material is necessary to show whether any of these forms can be admitted as subspecies.

9. *Edoliosoma amboinense tagulanum* subsp. nov.

♂ ad. Above and below dark bluish slaty grey; chin, lores, cheeks, ear-coverts, and malar stripe black, the black merging into the slaty grey of the back on the ear-coverts. Remiges black, outwardly margined with the colour of the back, their inner lining ashy white. Central pair of rectrices ashy grey, shafts and large spot at tip black, narrowly fringed with grey. Outer pair of rectrices tipped with grey for about 10 mm., next pair for about 2 or 3 mm., the rest of the rectrices black. Wing 123, tail ca. 105, culmen from base 27—28, bill from end of feathers over nostrils 17—17.5, from end of feathers on chin (gonys) 15, tarsus 23 mm.

♀ ad. Cap bluish ashy grey, rest of upper surface greyish brown. Middle rectrices pale brown, lateral brownish black with rusty rufous tips. Lores black. Suborbital region spotted black and white. Under surface rusty buff with narrow black cross-bars. Under tail-coverts pale cinnamon.

The male of this form agrees with *E. amboinense aruense* in having the wings margined with the colour of back. This can be strictly said of *E. amboinense tagulanum*, while in the male of *aruense* the margins are after all paler than the back. The male differs from that of *aruense* in a larger bill.

I have no doubt that *Edoliosoma amboinense, aruense, greyi, willeri, tenuirostre, taloutense, emancipatum*, and others are all subspecifically related.

10. *Lalage karu* (Less.).

A form of *L. karu* is not rare on Sudest Island. Its iris was found to be brown; feet and bill black.

(1) The type of *L. karu* is from New Ireland. Birds from New Ireland and New Britain I find to be very pale below, the rufous buff-colour of the abdomen (in the males) reaching up to the breast, the feathers of the rump black with white edges.

(2) From these birds, *L. karu karu*, the males from Sudest differ in having more white on the rump, there being many wholly white feathers, and the abdomen is generally paler buff.

(3) The specimens from St. Aignan again resemble more *L. karu karu*, but they seem generally paler on the abdomen. The rump is as dark as in *L. karu karu*.

(4) Specimens from the Kei Islands have the throat and breast darker, somewhat clouded with grey, the bars being less sharply defined, the buff on the abdomen restricted to the lower part of the abdomen, vent, and under tail-coverts.

(5) Birds from British New Guinea, Fergusson and Goodenough Islands are darker below; the rust-colour of the abdomen is darker and reaches up to the chest.

(6) In North Australia (Queensland) *Lalage kura* also occurs. One specimen from there (Cooktown, Robinson coll.) is extremely much like *L. kura kura*.

The material at present available for comparison at Tring and London is deficient from several parts of the distribution of *L. kura*, but I believe there is no doubt that the form from the Kei Islands, from where we have a good series collected by Herr Heinrich Kühn, and the dark form from British New Guinea and the D'Entrecasteaux Islands, can be nominally distinguished as subspecies.

The large *L. leucomela* of Australia, with the adult *male* below quite uniform, without bars, is quite another species.

11. *Monarcha inornatus* (Garn.).

Two *males*.

12. *Monarcha melanopsis* (Vieill.) (subsp.?).

A pair, shot in April. The black on the throat of the *male* is rather less extended than usual, and the black feathers round the eye seem to be wanting; but one being a *female*, the other in very much worn plumage, I must await more material to decide whether it is subspecifically different from *M. melanopsis melanopsis* or not.

13. *Monarcha chalybeocephalus* (Garn.).

Not rare on Sudest Island. Iris brown in both sexes.

14. *Monarcha guttatus* (Garn.).

Two *males* from Sudest Island have remarkably small bills. This is perhaps a peculiarity of all the Sudest Island birds.

15. *Rhipidura setosa nigromentalis* subsp. nov.

In studying the *Rhipidura* from Sudest I have been obliged to compare the whole of the species *R. setosa*, and I find that it consists—as far as my present knowledge goes—of five fairly well-marked local forms.

a. *Rhipidura setosa setosa* (Q. & G.).

Back grey, inner secondaries with wide white edges and tips, larger series of upper wing-coverts with narrow white edges. New Ireland (*type*), New Britain.

b. *Rhipidura setosa gularis* Sal. Müll.

Back a shade darker, more slate-colour, upper wing-coverts without white edges, inner secondaries with narrow whitish grey edges. This form has been wrongly considered to be inseparable from typical *setosa*. New Guinea: Arfak, Lobo, Kapaur, British New Guinea.

c. Rhipidura setosa nigromentalis Hart.

Back clear dark bluish ashy grey, secondaries with hardly perceptible narrow grey edges, white tips to outer rectrices much longer, being about 30 mm. long and more, while in forms *a* and *b* they are only from about 15 to 20 mm. long. No edges to wing-coverts. Forehead, lores, and subocular region pure black. On the chin a very distinct black spot, while in forms *a*, *b*, *d*, and *e* the chin is white like the throat. Young birds have buff tips to the wing-coverts. "Iris brown; feet and bill black." Abdomen buff. Total length about 160 mm.; wing ♂ 90—92, ♀ 82—84; tail ♂ 94—95, ♀ about 90 mm.; tarsus about 16 mm. Sudest (*type*) and St. Aignan Islands.

d. Rhipidura setosa assimilis Gray.

Upperside more brownish grey, no white tips to upper wing-coverts, breast-band variegated with large white spots, white spot above eyes developed into a wide superciliary white line, reaching from forehead to about 8 mm. behind the eye, tips to outermost rectrices buffy white instead of pure white, about 17—18 mm. long. A very distinct form. Kei Islands.

e. Rhipidura setosa isura Gould.

Wing-coverts and secondaries narrowly edged with white, grey band across the breast spotted with large longitudinal spots of white, less distinct in the *female*. White tips to outer rectrices about 20 mm. long. This form has wrongly been regarded as a synonym of typical *setosa*. The spotted breast-band characterizes it most. Northern Queensland and North-West Australia. *Rh. superciliosa* Rams. is a synonym of this form.

16. *Myiagra plumbea* Vig. & Horsf.

Two *males*. "Iris brown; feet black; bill bluish slate-colour."

17. *Myiagra nupta* sp. nov.

♂ ad. Above greenish black, with a uniform metallic green gloss. The entire head, to the throat, sides of the breast, upper wing-coverts, outer edges to the rectrices and remiges like the back. Inner webs of rectrices and remiges black, wing-quills with inner edges pale brown towards base. Breast, abdomen, under wing- and under tail-coverts white, feathers of thighs blackish and white. Bases of feathers below black. "Iris brown; bill dark bluish slate; feet black." Total length about 160, wing 88, tail 78, culmen from base 16, from nostril 9, tarsus 15 mm.
 ♀ ad. Above deep brown with steel-blue gloss, crown bluish black, wings and tail blackish, very abraded (like the back), the colour of the edges therefore not easily recognizable. Ear-covert like the crown. Chin and throat buff, wide rusty rufous band across the chest, remainder of under parts white, bases of the feathers blackish. Colour of iris, bill, and feet as in the *male*. Wing 85, tail 76 mm.

One perfectly adult pair in worn plumage shot on Sudest Island on April 16th, 1898.

The *female* is singularly marked, resembling most in coloration *M. rufigula*,

but differing in many points, as shown in the description, and especially in the very long tail. *M. ferrocyanea* ♂ ad. differs in the more blue colour of the upper parts, longer feathers of the crown, measurements and colour of *female*. *M. cervinicauda* differs in the colour of the *female*, the *male* in its much shorter wings and tail, paler back, and other points. There is no very close ally.

18. *Ptilotis notata* Gould.*

A series of seven skins from Sudest Island all differ from a series of nine from Fergusson and Goodenough Islands in the following characters :—

- (1) The bill is longer, slenderer, and less wide at base.
- (2) The yellow line below the eyes, which is distinct, yellow, broader, and almost running into the auricular yellow patch, in those from Fergusson is narrower, less distinct, very pale yellowish, and quite separated from the yellow auricular patch.
- (3) The yellow auricular patch is roundish, about as wide as it is long, while in those from Fergusson and Goodenough it is nearly twice as long as it is broad, the feathers being elongated.
- (4) The lateral rump-feathers have no white tips, and the rump seems to be less varied with dusky, the rump-feathers slightly less fluffy.

According to Messrs. Salvadori and Sharpe the form from the D'Entrecasteaux group (Fergusson and Goodenough) would be *P. analoga*, although the figure and description of the "*Ptilotis analoga*" seem to agree more with *notata*, the name that would belong to the birds from Sudest.

All these forms were united into one species by Salvadori, while Gadow considered them to be subspecies and wrongly united with this assemblage Salvadori's *flavivictus*, and Sharpe separated three species and one "form." As far as I can find out from the material now before me, there are two quite distinct species, as characterized above. These two species, which will probably be found as different while occurring together in other places. We have, in the Tring Museum, *P. analoga* from Fergusson, Goodenough, Arfak, Batanta; *P. notata* from Sudest, Aru, Batanta, Amberbaki, Jobi, Ramoi. All our Aru specimens are most distinctly *P. notata*, and Sharpe's *aruensis* are probably *females* or immature examples of *P. analoga*, or represent a subspecies of the latter; for I cannot doubt (cf. literature) that two species are found on the Aru Islands. It seems to me that the so-called *gracilis* is not different from *notata*, but that the small and large specimens are connected by intermediate specimens in one and the same country. I believe the so-called *gracilis* are *females* and young birds of *notata*. A skin from the north coast of New Guinea, at 136° 30', seems to me to be inseparable from Cape York examples, except that it is slightly more greenish. Of course both *analoga* and *notata* may have subspecies, but I cannot discuss this question now, with the material at hand.

19. *Myzomela nigrita louisianensis* subsp. nov.

The black *Myzomela*, with white under wing-coverts and axillaries, are very constant in the same localities, but differ in the various islands where they occur. In 1858 *M. nigrita* was described from Aru. It is a small form, with the wing

* For literature see Salvadori, *Orn. Papuasie* II. p. 327; *Aggiunte* II. p. 124; Gadow, *Cat. B.* VIII. p. 227; Sharpe in *Zool. Coll. H.M.S. Alert*, p. 19.

57—58 mm. long. Specimens from New Guinea are probably not separable from *M. nigrita nigrita*. In 1879 Salvadori named a much larger form from Miosuoni and Jobi *M. plato*. It has the wing 66—67 mm. long. Mr. Meek has sent a series from Sudest Island. These stand between *M. nigrita nigrita* and *M. nigrita plato*, the wings being 62—63 mm. long. The *females* of these forms do not differ, except in the same way in size.

M. pammelaena from the Admiralty Islands, *M. tristrami* from the Solomons, and *M. ramsayi* from Kapaterong, are probably all different subspecies of *M. nigrita*.

20. *Zosterops meeki* sp. nov.

♂ ♀ ad. Forehead to middle of crown, lores, subocular region, and ear-coverts dusky black, the latter shading off into the olive-green colour of the upperside, which again shades off into the olive-yellow rump and upper tail-coverts. Rectrices brownish black, inner webs very narrowly edged with whitish. Broad ring round eyes white. Ill-defined malar stripe sulphur-yellow. Remainder of under surface uniform white, with a hardly perceptible faint buffy tinge. Vent and under tail-coverts yellow. Remiges brownish black, outer webs edged with olive-green, innermost secondaries wholly olive-green like the wing-coverts. Under wing-coverts white, inner webs of remiges edged with white towards bases. "Iris brown; bill slaty black; feet bluish slate-colour." Total length about 195, wing 59—60, tail 39—40, culmen from base 13.5 mm.

One pair from Sudest. Sexes alike.

This interesting new species differs from *Z. delicatula* Sharpe, which is probably one of its nearest allies, in having the throat white instead of yellow, the sides of the breast white, not greyish, the rump and upper tail-coverts lighter and more yellowish.

21. *Cinnyris christianae* Tristr.

Three *males* from Sudest agree entirely with typical specimens from St. Aignan.

22. *Dicaeum nitidum* Tristr. (*Ibis*, 1889, p. 555).

♂ ad. Crown dark burgundy-red, remainder of upper surface dark olive-green with a metallic gloss, scapulars and upper wing-coverts dark steely green with a strong gloss. Lower rump and upper tail-coverts crimson. Sides of head greenish olive. Chin and upper throat pale buffy yellow, throat with a large crimson patch. Breast yellowish olive, more yellow in the middle of the abdomen and on the under tail-coverts. Under wing-coverts and inner edges of quills white. Wing 57—58, tail 30, culmen from base 10, tarsus 12—13 mm. ♀ ad. Like the *male*, but smaller and without the red patch on the throat. Wing 53, tail 24 mm. There is, further, a specimen marked "young *female*"; but this seems to be a *lapsus calami* for "young *male*." Its wing measures 55 mm., and there is a small pale red spot on the throat. This species has the "iris brown; bill vandyke-brown; feet black."

23. *Collocalia fuciphaga* (Thunb.).

Three *males* and one *female*. Wing ♀ 122, ♂♂ 118—124 mm.

24. *Podargus meeki* Hart. (*Bull. B. O. Club*, Vol. VIII, p. 8).

This interesting species is intermediate in size between *Podargus ocellatus* Q. & G. from New Guinea and *P. intermedius* Hart. from the D'Entrecasteaux and Trobriand Islands. It differs from both in the *female* not being rufous, but apparently always brownish, and much more heavily marked with longitudinal black spots on the under surface than the *male*, and darker above. The wing measures 190—195 mm., the tail 167—180 mm. "Iris hazel; feet yellowish horn-colour: bill yellowish horn-brown to dark brown horn-colour."

25. *Caprimulgus macrurus* Horsf.

Four skins of both sexes, procured at different times in April. They are all much in moult.

26. *Eurystomus crassirostris* Sel.

♂. April 7th, 1898. Bill blackish, except base of mandible, which is red.

27. *Merops ornatus* Lath.

In March and April adult birds were in fairly good fresh plumage, while young birds were in moult. Common on Sudest Island.

28. *Alcedo ispida moluccana* Less.

Common on Sudest Island. "Iris dark brown; bill black in the *male*, black with red basal half to mandible in the *female*: feet bright red."

Elsewhere I have stated my belief that the Moluccan Kingfisher cannot logically be called a species, as there are connecting links between it and *A. i. floresiana*, and again between *A. i. floresiana* and *A. ispida bengalensis*, and then again between *A. i. bengalensis* and *A. ispida ispida*.

There is—I may repeat it here again—no reason to let drop the name of *bengalensis* altogether as a synonym, for if one subspecies is recognized the other must be considered as well, and never do we meet with anything as small as *A. i. bengalensis* in Europe, and never with the large typical *A. ispida ispida* in India. They are therefore subspecies, no matter how much connected by intermediate links.

29. *Halcyon sancta* Vig. & Horsf.

A series of *H. sancta* from Sudest Island shows very constantly a very dark back, washed with brown, and a dark olive-brown crown with a bluish line behind the eye. This same character is also to be seen in all the specimens from Woodlark Island and in the majority of those from Rossel and St. Aignan Islands. Some specimens from New Britain also resemble these birds, but some Australian ones as well show the same peculiarities or indications of it. It seems certain (cf. Meyer & Wieglesworth, *Birds of Celebes*, Vol. 1.) that *H. sancta* wanders northwards in winter: it is therefore not impossible that the specimens from St. Aignan which closely resemble Australian examples are birds of passage: therefore at present I refrain from naming what I believe to be a subspecies from the smaller islands east of New Guinea.

30. *Cyclopsittacus inseparabilis* Hart.

In *Bull. B. O. Club*, Vol. VIII, p. 9 (October 1898), I have already said that in this most interesting little Parrot the sexes are alike in colour, and resemble very much the *female* of *Cyclopsittacus virago* Hartert, from Fergusson Island, except that the sides of the head are green, with a slight yellowish tinge, in *C. inseparabilis*, while they are bluish green in the *female* of *C. virago*. In *C. virago* the sexes differ widely.

♂ ad. of *C. inseparabilis*:—Bill light slaty bluish grey, tip darker slate-colour, mandible whitish in the middle. Forehead, above the beak, with a large scarlet-red patch, separated from the green crown by a broad semicircular band of light blue. Upper surface yellowish green, darker on the wing-coverts and outer webs of secondaries, innermost secondaries deep red along the outer edge of inner web. Primaries blackish, outer webs dark blue, inner webs of all but the first two pale yellow towards the base. Rectrices dark green, washed with bluish at utmost bases and on the under surface. Under wing-coverts green, blue along the edge of the wing, and the longest series blackish with pale yellow spots on both webs, about the middle. Under surface light green, broadly streaked with deep yellow along the sides of the body. "Iris brown: feet greenish slate-colour." Total length about 130; wing 89—90; tail 43 mm.

31. *Lorius hypoenochrous* Gray.

In a series of this species from Sudest Island I was struck by the regular presence of a black bar across the under surface of the wing, formed by the black tips to the longer under wing-coverts. This black bar is not generally found in specimens from S.E. New Guinea, New Britain, Fergusson and Woodlark Islands. The type in the British Museum, according to the original label, is from Sudest Island, and **has** the black band like all our Sudest specimens. All those from St. Aignan, both in the Tring and in the British Museum, have an indication of a black bar, some of the outermost under wing-coverts being blackish. There is in the British Museum also a skin said to be from the East Cape in British New Guinea, from Hunstein, which **has** the black bar. This skin, however, has no original label, and generally Hunstein's birds were not labelled, like those of Goldie, and a mistake is therefore not impossible with regard to the locality. On the other hand, it seems that immature birds have this black bar: but in the birds from Sudest, and equally in all from Rossel Island, the black bar is also present in adult birds. It is thus advisable to distinguish the form without black bar, inhabiting the low country of S.E. New Guinea, Fergusson, Woodlark, New Britain, and New Ireland, as a subspecies, which I call

Lorius hypoenochrous devittatus subsp. nov.,

the type of this subspecies being the Fergusson form, and those from St. Aignan being intermediate between *L. h. devittatus* and *L. h. hypoenochrous*. The iris of the latter is red; bill red; feet blackish.

32. *Eclectus pectoralis* (P. L. S. Müll.).

Two *males* do not differ from specimens from the Solomons and from New Guinea. The Arn birds can be separated subspecifically.

33. *Nasiterna pusio* Sel.

Three *males* and a *female* from Sudest Island. "Iris brown; feet and bill slate-colour." The *female* is smaller than the *male*, and the forehead and cheeks are perhaps a trifle paler.

34. *Geoffroyus aruensis sudestiensis* Vis.

In 1890, in one of the Reports on British New Guinea in which this distinguished author unfortunately continues to publish his valuable articles, Mr. De Vis described the *Geoffroyus* from Sudest Island under the above somewhat unclassical name. This species or subspecies is distinguished from *G. aruensis aruensis* by the absence of the reddish brown spot on the wing-coverts, but other differences do not seem to exist, especially the wash of yellow on the head mentioned in the original description is not to be seen. There is also no appreciable difference in dimensions. The *female* is not known to me, for of the two specimens sent as *females* one is a very young bird, the other a young *male*, with the blue and red feathers of the head just beginning to make their appearance. "Iris pale yellow."

35. *Cacatua triton trobriandi* Finsch.

The Sudest Island Cockatoo is exactly the same as the one from Fergusson (Nov. Zool. III, p. 246). It differs considerably from *C. triton triton* in its much smaller size. Another smaller subspecies, intermediate in size between *C. triton triton* and *C. triton trobriandi*, or equal to the latter, is the form from the Western Papuan Islands. The Sudest Island birds measure as follows: wings 268—292, tail 150—155, bill from nostril to tip of maxilla 34—35 mm.

36. *Ninox goldiei rosseliana* Tristr.

I am recording four skins of an Owl from Sudest Island as above, as they agree perfectly with the original description of *Ninox rosseliana* in *Ibis*, 1889, p. 557, as well as with a skin from Rossel in the Tring Museum. On the other hand, they are hardly separable from *Ninox goldiei* from Fergusson and Goodenough Islands, of which I have six skins before me (Nov. Zool. 1896, p. 246). The specimens from Fergusson and Goodenough, it is true, are mostly more rufous on the breast and abdomen, the feathers of the tarsus darker, the white on the abdomen less conspicuous; but these differences are not only very slight, but completely bridged over by one from Fergusson. Our birds may thus for the present stand as a subspecies of *goldiei*, but the value of this subspecies is not great. The iris of both forms is yellow.

37. *Astur etorques* (?).

One immature *male*, rather large, wing 240 mm., tail 180 mm. "Iris bright yellow; feet lemon-chrome; bill black." I think this must be a young bird of one of the subspecies of the *etorques* group.

38. *Ptilinopus superbus* (Temm.).

Two *males* and one *female*. "Iris pale yellow, more reddish in the *female*."

39. *Ptilinopus strophium* Gould.

♂ ♀, April 1898. "Iris reddish yellow : feet dark red : bill greenish slate-colour."

40. *Macropygia carteretia* Bp.

One immature *male*. The identification seems to be quite correct, although the habitat is strange. More material is, however, desirable to prove the full identity of the Sudest Island form.

41. *Myristicivora spilorrhoea* (G. R. Gray).

♂ ♀, April 1898. "Iris dark brown : feet bluish slate-colour ; bill slaty green." Wing in both 240 mm.

42. *Sterna longipennis* Nordm.

Four skins. "Iris dark brown : feet brown (sienna brown, reddish brown, brownish black) : bill black."

(Is not the bill of southern birds larger than that of northern ones?)
